System and Meth d for Disk Imaging on Div r e Comput rs

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system is disclosed that uses a dual loopback mounting mechanism to capture and deploy an image of a source disk with no need for the source disk to be loaded with special software or otherwise prepared. The image may be captured even where the source disk uses a proprietary file system. The invention also provides mechanisms to extract a system's hardware configuration from a static image of its disk, and to catalog, warehouse, reconfigure, customize, and deploy disk images on diverse computers. Still other mechanisms are provided to perform efficient physical-to-virtual, virtual-to-physical, and virtual-to-virtual system migration.